

**Standard USG-5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of personal and civic rights and responsibilities and the role of the citizen in American democracy.**

USG-5.5 Summarize character traits that are important to the preservation and improvement of American democracy, including dispositions that encourage citizens to act as independent members of society, that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity, and that engage the citizen in public affairs. (P)

**Taxonomy Level:** 2.4-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

**Previous/future knowledge:**

There will have been insignificant previous knowledge of this indicator through the Social Studies Academic Standards. Students will have been exposed to the ideas of worth, respect, and dignity of the individual. (K-2.1; K-4.1; K-4.2; 6-2.2)

**It is essential for students to** understand that democracy depends upon the principle of citizens promoting the common good. Again there is a focus on the necessity of citizen involvement for a democratic system to succeed. This indicator concentrates on the correlation between the moral character of individual citizens and how that character influences the decision-making of citizens. There is an implication of the need to coalesce the competing elements of liberty, (individual), and democracy, (group), and that the juxtaposition of these ideals is dependent upon the character of citizens.

**It is not essential for students to identify** specific historical instances of people and/or events that epitomize these character traits.

**Assessment guidelines:** It is the objective of this indicator to summarize character traits of citizens that are significant in sustaining democracy; therefore, the primary focus of assessment would require students to generalize major points describing the qualities needed. Appropriate assessment would call upon students to defend the necessity of the strong individual character of citizens in maintaining a free, democratic government.